NOTICE OF EXEMPTION



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

PROJECT TITLE	RRU Truck Trail Maintenance 2015			
	ruck Trail Systems located N of San Jacinto, CA			
PROJECT LOCATION	Portions of Sections 12,13 T4S R1W, Portions of Sections 3,4,7,8,9,10,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,28,29,33 T4S R1E and Portions of Section 34 T3S R1E SBBM	COUNTY	Riverside	
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)			
CONTACT	Gregg Bratcher, Unit Forester			
COMMO	CAL FIRE – Riverside Unit			
ADDRESS	Mountain Resource Center	PHONE	(951) 659-3335	
	P.O Box 2097, Idyllwild CA 92549			

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project involves maintenance and repair of 19.73 miles of RRU's Truck Trail system located North of the city of San Jacinto. The project is part of the Riverside Unit's ongoing annual maintenance of critical fire defense infrastructure. This project will encompass tasks associated with road maintenance consisting of grading, filling of eroded ruts, repair or replacement of existing water drainage facilities, cleanout of existing culvert systems, removal of obstructions within the road such as rocks and fallen trees. All these activities will remain within the prism of the existing road being confined to previously maintained surfaces, ditches, and cut and fill slopes. No new road construction or side cast into channels will occur. Additional work will include maintaining the effectiveness of 130 acres of fuel break work along the truck trail system within 25 feet of each side of the roads. Crews will hand cut overgrown and sprouting chaparral. The cut material will be hand carried to the road to be chipped. Chips will be hauled off site or broadcast onsite, not to exceed a depth of 2" inches. These types of treatments will create fire safe conditions for the community and ease further fuel reduction work. Under direct supervision of CAL FIRE captain, hand crews will cut/prune brush and tree limbs to be chipped and broadcast on the road slopes.

EXE	MPTION STATUS			
	Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 1 and 4 Statutory Exemption (state code section): Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)	15301 (c) Existing Facilities 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land		
	Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a)) Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))			
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REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits within the descriptions of two Categorical Exemption listed in the CEQA Guidelines. These are Class 1 pertaining to maintenance and repairs to existing public structures and facilities, and Class 4 pertaining to minor alterations to land. After completing an environmental impact analysis, the Department has determined this project will have no significant impact on the environment. This determination is based on field assessments, CNDDB search, consultation with other state, federal and tribal agencies, and archaeological survey and report completed by a CAL FIRE Archaeologist. All work to be performed under this exemption is recurring maintenance to existing fire defense facilities. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems following approval and implementation of this project. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 25380 Franklin Dr. Idyllwild, CA 92549

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Duane Shintaku, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection